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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/964,069	09/25/2001	Akira Murotani	16869S-032010US	2038
20350	7590	01/13/2005	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP			AILES, BENJAMIN A	
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
EIGHTH FLOOR				2142
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834				

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/964,069	MURATANI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Benjamin A Ailes	2142	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 13-24 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 13-24 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 13 and 15 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 September 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/932,240.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 13-24 have been examined.
2. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Priority

3. The papers required in order receive an earlier effective filing date have been received with application no. 09/932,240. The priority date is 04/10/2001.

Drawings

4. The Examiner contends that the drawings submitted on 09/25/2001 are acceptable for examination proceedings.

Double Patenting

5. Claims 13-24 of this application conflict with claims 13-24 of U.S. Application No. 09/932,240. 37 CFR 1.78(b) provides that when two or more applications filed by the same applicant contain conflicting claims, elimination of such claims from all but one application may be required in the absence of good and sufficient reason for their retention during pendency in more than one application. Applicant is required to either cancel the conflicting claims from all but one application or maintain a clear line of demarcation between the applications. See MPEP § 822.

Claim Objections

6. Claims 13 and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities: In line 12 of claim 13 and line 2 of claim 15, the words “control port” are used. Examiner assumes claims 13 and 15 are intended to state, “control table.” Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 13, 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanada et al. (E.P. 0 881 560 A2), hereinafter referred to as Sanada et al., in view of Suzuki (U.S. 5,796,736), hereinafter referred to as Suzuki.

9. Regarding claim 13, Sanada et al. disclose a storage controller which is connected to an information exchanger connected to a connection port included in an upper node device and which passes a packet via the information exchanger with the upper node device (Fig. 1, ref. 10 and col. 5, lines 35-41), wherein:

- The storage controller has a control table containing identification information of the connection port and security information of the connection port, detects replacement of the connection port according to information obtained from the information exchanger, and replaces the identification information of the connection port in the control port by identification information of a connection port after the replacement.

Sanada et al. disclose the use of a control table to store identification information but are silent on the replacement of identification information for when the connection port is replaced. However, Suzuki discloses a network auto-discovery method wherein the network nodes are automatically recognized and connection information is automatically accessed (col. 3, lines 46-61). One of ordinary skill in art at the time of the applicant's invention would have found it obvious to combine the control table provided by Sanada et al. with the automatic discovery method of network nodes taught by Suzuki in order to keep track of all nodes in the network (Suzuki, col. 4, lines 43-48).

10. Regarding claim 14, in accordance with claim 13, Sanada et al. disclose a storage controller wherein when connection between a first connection port and the information exchanger is released and connection between a second connection port and the information exchanger is confirmed, the storage controller detects that the first connection port is replaced by the second connection port. Sanada et al. disclose the use of a control table to store identification information but are silent on the replacement of identification information for when the connection port is replaced. However, Suzuki discloses a network auto-discovery method wherein the network nodes are automatically recognized and connection information is automatically accessed (col. 3, lines 46-61). One of ordinary skill in art at the time of the applicant's invention would have found it obvious to combine the control table provided by Sanada et al. with the automatic discovery method of network nodes taught by Suzuki in order to keep track of all nodes in the network (Suzuki, col. 4, lines 43-48).

11. Regarding claim 17, Sanada et al. disclose a storage controller connected to fabric connected to a fiber channel port contained in an upper node device and passing a packet via the fabric with the upper node device (Fig. 1, ref. 10 and col. 5, lines 35-41), wherein:

- The storage controller has a control table containing a node name of the upper node device, a port name of the fiber channel port, and a fiber channel port access enabled/disabled state, detects replacement of the fiber channel port according to information obtained from the fabric and replaces the port name of the fiber channel port in the control table by a port name of a fiber channel port after the replacement. Sanada et al. disclose the use of a control table to store identification information but are silent on the replacement of identification information for when the connection port is replaced. However, Suzuki discloses a network auto-discovery method wherein the network nodes are automatically recognized and connection information is automatically accessed (col. 3, lines 46-61). One of ordinary skill in art at the time of the applicant's invention would have found it obvious to combine the control table provided by Sanada et al. with the automatic discovery method of network nodes taught by Suzuki in order to keep track of all nodes in the network (Suzuki, col. 4, lines 43-48).

12. Regarding claim 18, in accordance with claim 17, Sanada et al. disclose the storage controller wherein the storage controller detects a node name of the upper node device whose connection state to the fiber channel port is changed, detects a port name of a fiber channel port to be connected to the upper node device of that node name, compares the detected port name with the port name contained in the control table (see Abstract and col. 2, lines 38-47, and col. 3,

lines 21-32), and if a first port name is not detected but stored and a second port name is detected but not stored, then detects that the fiber channel port of the first port name is replaced by the fiber channel port of the second port name. Sanada et al. disclose the use of a control table to store identification information but are silent on the replacement of identification information for when the connection port is replaced. However, Suzuki disclose a network auto-discovery method wherein the network nodes are automatically recognized and connection information is automatically accessed (col. 3, lines 46-61). One of ordinary skill in art at the time of the applicant's invention would have found it obvious to combine the control table provided by Sanada et al. with the automatic discovery method of network nodes taught by Suzuki in order to keep track of all nodes in the network (Suzuki, col. 4, lines 43-48).

13. Claims 15, 16, and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanada et al.

14. Regarding claims 15 and 19, in accordance with claims 13 and 17, respectively, Sanada et al. disclose the computer system wherein the control table is provided for each of the upper node devices (Fig. 6 and col. 2, line 48 – col. 3, line 4).

15. Regarding claim 16, in accordance with claim 13, respectively, Sanada et al. disclose the computer system wherein the control table further contains identification information of the upper node device (Fig. 6 and col. 10, lines 25-40).

16. Regarding claim 20, in accordance with claim 17, respectively, Sanada et al. disclose the computer system wherein the control table further contains a node name of the upper node device (Fig. 6 and col. 2, line 48 – col. 3, line 4).

17. Regarding claims 22 and 23, in accordance with claims 13 and 17, respectively, Sanada et al. disclose the system wherein the interface between the upper node device and the storage controller is a fiber channel standardized by ANSI X3T11 (col. 2, lines 17-23).

18. Regarding claim 21, in accordance with claim 17, Sanada et al. disclose the storage controller wherein when a port name of a fiber channel port allowing access is entered, a node name of the upper node device to which the fiber channel port allowing access is to be connected is detected, a port name of the fiber channel port to be connected to the upper node device of that node name is detected, and the control table is created containing the node name, the port name, and the entered access enabled/disabled information (col. 2, lines 17-58).

19. Regarding claim 24, in accordance with claim 17, Sanada et al. disclose the storage controller wherein the a storage device having a plurality of storage domains is connected to the storage controller and the access enabled/disabled management is performed for each of the storage domains and each of the fiber channel ports (Fig. 1 and col. 10, lines 13-40).

Conclusion

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

He et al. (U.S. 6,088,451) disclose a security system and method for network element access.

Selitrennikoff et al. (U.S. 6,301,612) disclose establishing one computer as a replacement for another computer.

Fraigong et al. (U.S. 6,012,100) disclose a system and method of configuring a remotely managed secure network interface.

Sears et al. (U.S. 6,681,248) disclose a method for port connectivity discovery in transparent high bandwidth networks.

Maeda (U.S. 6,557,033) discloses a system, apparatus, and control method for monitoring system changes within a network configuration.

Kotani et al. (U.S. 5,805,800) disclose an apparatus and method for controlling storage medium using security capabilities.

Christensen et al. (U.S. 5,625,621) disclose a method and system of automatically configuring a LAN switch port of a multi-port LAN switch based on an attached device type.

Croslin et al. (U.S. 5,737,319) disclose a dynamic network topology determination.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin A. Ailes, whose telephone number is (571)272-3899. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Harvey can be reached at (571)272-3896. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-3906.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 2142

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [benjamin.ailes@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Benjamin Ailes
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2142

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER